# CHICAGO GARDEN PLAN

School Year Calendar vs Chicago Growing Season

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL YEAR</th>
<th>SUMMER BREAK</th>
<th>SCHOOL YEAR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAN</td>
<td>FEB</td>
<td>MAR</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SPRING SEASON CROPS</strong></td>
<td><strong>APRIL 1 - MAY 30</strong></td>
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Salad Garden: Lettuce, Radishes, Spinach, Peas (grown for Pea Shoots)

The spring growing season is short and sweet. We plant a Salad Garden in the spring once temperatures have warmed to allow for garden growth and harvest it before students get out of school for the summer.

**SUMMER/FALL CROPS** | **JUNE 1 - OCTOBER 15**

Summer Themed Gardens: 3 Sisters Garden, Salsa Garden, Plant Parts Garden, Root Veggie Garden.

The summer growing season is the most diverse and charismatic garden. Because of the potentially large number of plants you may want to grow, and the great potential for teaching, we split the garden into different themes. Most Themed Gardens produce a harvest in the fall.

Summer Themed Garden Option #2: Summer Cover Crop

If your school does not have the capacity to maintain a summer garden, you can plant a cover crop of hardy edible flowers and soil building crops. This garden requires one month of care to become established before transitioning to minimal summer upkeep. The cover crop is followed by a Salad Garden in early September.

**FALL SEASON CROPS** | **SEPTEMBER 1 - OCTOBER 30**

Salad Garden: Asian greens, beans, chard, cilantro, kale, pea shoots, radishes, spinach

The fall growing season is short and sweet. For schools who were unable to grow summer vegetables, we plant a Salad Garden as soon as students arrive back to school for the fall semester and harvest before winter.

**OVERWINTERED CROPS** | **NOVEMBER 1 - MARCH**

Overwintered Crops: Spinach, Garlic, and winter cover crops (peas and winter wheat)

In addition to overwintering garlic and spinach, Learning Gardens will grow winter wheat and peas to help protect and nourish their soil through the harsh winter months. Attend the Fall Garden workshop to learn how to encourage earlier and larger spring harvests of cool weather crops.